

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Applicants have amended Claim 1 for clarity and to incorporate the limitation of Claim 7. Accordingly, support for amended Claim 1 can be found in Claims 1 and 7, as originally filed. Claims 2-6 and 8-13 have been amended for clarity and to properly depend from amended Claim 1. Support for amended Claims 2-6 and 8-13 can be found in the same claims, as originally filed.

No new matter has been added. Claims 1-19 remain pending in this application.

REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Group for indicating that Claims 7, 12, and 13 are only objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claims and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants submit that, in view of the present amendments, all of the pending claims are now allowable.

The rejection of Claims 1-6 and 8-11 under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting in view of Claims 1-10 of U.S. Patent No. 6,613,443 has been obviated by appropriate amendment. As noted above Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 7. Applicants submit that amended Claim 1 is patentable over the cited reference for the same reason that Claim 7 was indicated as being allowable.

Accordingly, the rejection should be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 8 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, has been obviated by appropriate amendment. As the Examiner will note the claims have been amended such that they are free of the criticisms outlined on page 2 of the Office Action. Thus, the rejection is no longer tenable and should be withdrawn.

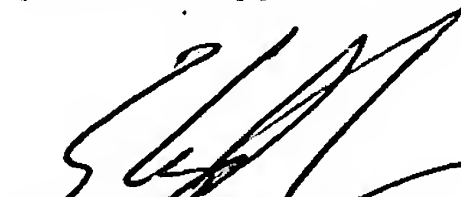
Application No. 10/042,254

Reply to Office Action dated January 21, 2004

Applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and early notification of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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